

What is claimed is:

1. An information recording medium having at least two information layers, comprising:

5 a first information layer including a first recording layer that generates a reversible phase change between the crystalline phase and the amorphous phase by optical means or electrical means; and

10 a second information layer including a second recording layer that generates a reversible phase change between the crystalline phase and the amorphous phase by optical means or electrical means;

wherein the first recording layer contains Ge, Te and Bi, and

15 the second recording layer contains Sb and at least one element M1 selected from a group consisting of V, Mn, Ga, Ge, Se, Ag, In, Sn, Te, Pb, Bi and Au.

2. The information recording medium according to claim 1, wherein the first recording layer further 20 contains Sb.

3. The information recording medium according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the first recording layer further contains Sn.

4. The information recording medium according to 25 any one of claims 1-3, wherein the first recording layer contains Bi at 1.0 atom % or more.

5. The information recording medium according to claim 1, wherein the first recording layer is represented by a composition formula $Ge_aBi_bTe_{3+a}$, where $0 < a \leq 60$ and 30 $1.5 \leq b \leq 7$.

6. The information recording medium according to
claim 1, wherein the first recording layer is represented
by a composition formula $(Ge-M2)_aBi_bTe_{3+a}$, where M2 is at
least one element selected from a group consisting of Sn
5 and Pb, and $0 < a \leq 60$ and $1.5 \leq b \leq 7$.

7. The information recording medium according to
claim 2, wherein the first recording layer is represented
by a composition formula $Ge_a(Bi-Sb)_bTe_{3+a}$, where $0 < a \leq 60$
and $1.5 \leq b \leq 7$.

10 8. The information recording medium according to
claim 2, wherein the first recording layer is represented
by a composition formula $(Ge-M2)_a(Bi-Sb)_bTe_{3+a}$, where M2 is
at least one element selected from a group consisting of
Sn and Pb, and $0 < a \leq 60$ and $1.5 \leq b \leq 7$).

15 9. An information recording medium having at least
two information layers, comprising:

20 a first information layer including a first
recording layer that generates a reversible phase change
between the crystalline phase and the amorphous phase by
optical means or electrical means; and

a second information layer including a second
recording layer that generates a reversible phase change
between the crystalline phase and the amorphous phase by
optical means or electrical means;

25 wherein the first recording layer contains Ge, Te
and Sb, and

the second recording layer contains Sb and at least
one element M1 selected from a group consisting of V, Mn,
Ga, Ge, Se, Ag, In, Sn, Te, Pb, Bi and Au.

30 10. The information recording medium according to

claim 9, wherein the first recording layer is represented by a composition formula $Ge_aSb_bTe_{3+a}$, where $0 < a \leq 60$ and $1.5 \leq b \leq 7$.

11. The information recording medium according to
5 claim 9, wherein the first recording layer is represented by a composition formula $(Ge-M2)_aSb_bTe_{3+a}$, where M2 is at least one element selected from a group consisting of Sn and Pb, and $0 < a \leq 60$ and $1.5 \leq b \leq 7$.

12. The information recording medium according to
10 any one of claims 1-11, wherein the second recording layer is represented by a composition formula Sb_xMl_{100-x} , where $50 \leq x \leq 95$ atom %.

13. The information recording medium according to any one of claims 1-11, wherein the second recording layer
15 is represented by a composition formula Sb_yMl_{100-y} , where $0 < y \leq 20$ atom %.

14. The information recording medium according to any one of claims 1-11, wherein the second recording layer is represented by a composition formula $Ge_a(Bi-Sb)_bTe_{3+a}$,
20 where $0 < a \leq 60$ and $1.5 \leq b \leq 7$.

15. The information recording medium according to any one of claims 1-11, wherein the second recording layer is represented by a composition formula $(Ge-M2)_a(Bi-Sb)_bTe_{3+a}$, where M2 is at least one element selected from a
25 group consisting of Sn and Pb, and $0 < a \leq 60$ and $1.5 \leq b \leq 7$.

16. An information recording medium having at least two information layers, comprising:

a first information layer including a first
30 recording layer that generates a reversible phase change

between the crystalline phase and the amorphous phase by optical means or electrical means; and

a second information layer including a second recording layer that generates a reversible phase change
5 between the crystalline phase and the amorphous phase by optical means or electrical means;

wherein both the first recording layer and the second recording layer contain Ge, Te and Bi.

17. The information recording medium according to
10 claim 16, wherein at least one of the first recording layer and the second recording layer contains Bi at 1.0 atom % or more.

18. The information recording medium according to
claim 16, wherein at least one of the first recording
15 layer and the second recording layer is represented by a composition formula $Ge_aBi_bTe_{3+a}$, where $0 < a \leq 60$ and $1.5 \leq b \leq 7$.

19. The information recording medium according to
claim 16, wherein at least one of the first recording
20 layer and the second recording layer is represented by a composition formula $(Ge-M2)_aBi_bTe_{3+a}$, where M2 is at least one element selected from a group consisting of Sn and Pb, and $0 < a \leq 60$ and $1.5 \leq b \leq 7$.

20. The information recording medium according to
25 any one of claims 1-19, further comprising an interface layer that is provided adjacent to a surface of at least one of the first recording layer and the second recording layer, wherein the interface layer contains at least one composition selected from a group consisting of Ga_2O_3 , SnO_2 ,
30 ZrO_2 , HfO_2 , Nb_2O_5 , Ta_2O_5 , SiO_2 , Cr_2O_3 , Al_2O_3 , TiO_2 , ZnO , $Zr-N$,

Hf-N, Nb-N, Ta-N, Si-N, Cr-N, Ge-N, Al-N, Ge-Si-N, Ge-Cr-N,
YF₃, LaF₃, CeF₃, GdF₃, DyF₃, ErF₃, YbF₃, C and ZnS.

21. The information recording medium according to
any one of claims 1-20, wherein the first information
5 layer includes at least a first incident side dielectric
layer, a first incident side interface layer, a first
recording layer, a first counterincident side interface
layer, a first reflection layer and a transmittance
adjustment layer in this order.

10 22. The information recording medium according to
any one of claims 1-21, wherein the second information
layer includes at least a second incident side dielectric
layer, a second incident side interface layer, a second
recording layer, a second counterincident side interface
15 layer, a second counterincident side dielectric layer and
a second reflection layer in this order.

23. The information recording medium according to
any one of claims 1-22, wherein the first information
layer is disposed at the optical means side with respect
20 to the second information layer.

24. The information recording medium according to
any one of claims 1-23, wherein thickness of the first
recording layer is 9 nm or less.

25 25. The information recording medium according to
any one of claims 1-24, wherein thickness of the second
recording layer is between 6 and 15 nm.

26. A method for producing an information recording
medium having at least two information layers on a
substrate, the method comprising the steps of:

30 forming a first recording layer that generates a

phase change; and

forming a second recording layer that generates a phase change;

wherein a sputtering target containing Ge, Te and Bi
5 is used in the first recording layer forming step; and
a sputtering target containing Sb and at least one element M1 selected from a group consisting of V, Mn, Ga, Ge, Se, Ag, In, Sn, Pb, Te, Bi and Au is used in the second recording layer forming step.

10 27. The method for producing an information recording medium according to claim 26, wherein the sputtering target that is used in the first recording layer forming step further contains Sb.

15 28. The method for producing an information recording medium according to claim 26 or 27, wherein the sputtering target that is used in the first recording layer forming step further contains Sn.

20 29. The method for producing an information recording medium according to any one of claims 26-28, wherein a sputtering target containing Bi at 0.5 atom % or more is used in the first recording layer forming step.

25 30. The method for producing an information recording medium according to claim 26, wherein the first recording layer that is formed by the sputtering target that is used in the first recording layer forming step is represented by a composition formula $Ge_aBi_bTe_{3+a}$, where $0 < a \leq 60$ and $1.5 \leq b \leq 7$.

30 31. The method for producing an information recording medium according to claim 26, wherein the first recording layer that is formed by the sputtering target

that is used in the first recording layer forming step is represented by a composition formula $(Ge-M2)_aBi_bTe_{3+a}$, where M2 is at least one element selected from a group consisting of Sn and Pb, and $0 < a \leq 60$ and $1.5 \leq b \leq 7$.

5 32. The method for producing an information recording medium according to claim 27, wherein the first recording layer that is formed by the sputtering target that is used in the first recording layer forming step is represented by a composition formula $Ge_a(Bi-Sb)_bTe_{3+a}$,

10 where $0 < a \leq 60$ and $1.5 \leq b \leq 7$.

33. The method for producing an information recording medium according to claim 27, wherein the first recording layer that is formed by the sputtering target that is used in the first recording layer forming step is represented by a composition formula $(Ge-M2)_a(Bi-Sb)_bTe_{3+a}$, where M2 is at least one element selected from a group consisting of Sn and Pb, and $0 < a \leq 60$ and $1.5 \leq b \leq 7$.

15 34. A method for producing an information recording medium that has at least two information layers, the method comprising the steps of:

20 forming a first recording layer that generates a phase change; and

25 forming a second recording layer that generates a phase change;

wherein a sputtering target containing Ge, Te and Sb is used in the first recording layer forming step; and

a sputtering target containing Sb and at least one element M1 selected from a group consisting of V, Mn, Ga, Ge, Se, Ag, In, Sn, Pb, Te, Bi and Au is used in the second recording layer forming step.

35. The method for producing an information recording medium according to claim 34, wherein the first recording layer that is formed by the sputtering target that is used in the first recording layer forming step is represented by a composition formula $Ge_aSb_bTe_{3+a}$, where $0 < a \leq 60$ and $1.5 \leq b \leq 7$.

36. The method for producing an information recording medium according to claim 34, wherein the first recording layer that is formed by the sputtering target that is used in the first recording layer forming step is represented by a composition formula $(Ge-M_2)_aSb_bTe_{3+a}$, where M_2 is at least one element selected from a group consisting of Sn and Pb, and $0 < a \leq 60$ and $1.5 \leq b \leq 7$.

37. The method for producing an information recording medium according to any one of claims 26-36, wherein the second recording layer that is formed by the sputtering target that is used in the second recording layer forming step is represented by a composition formula Sb_xM_{100-x} , where $50 \leq x \leq 95$ atom %.

38. The method for producing an information recording medium according to any one of claims 26-36, wherein the second recording layer that is formed by the sputtering target that is used in the second recording layer forming step is represented by a composition formula Sb_yM_{100-y} , where $0 < y \leq 20$ atom %.

39. The method for producing an information recording medium according to any one of claims 26-36, wherein the second recording layer that is formed by the sputtering target that is used in the second recording layer forming step is represented by a composition formula

$Ge_a(Bi-Sb)_bTe_{3+a}$, where $0 < a \leq 60$ and $1.5 \leq b \leq 7$.

40. The method for producing an information recording medium according to any one of claims 26-36, wherein the second recording layer that is formed by the sputtering target that is used in the second recording layer forming step is represented by a composition formula $(Ge-M2)_a(Bi-Sb)_bTe_{3+a}$, where M2 is at least one element selected from a group consisting of Sn and Pb, and $0 < a \leq 60$ and $1.5 \leq b \leq 7$.

10 41. A method for producing an information recording medium that has at least two information layers, the method comprising the steps of:

forming a first recording layer that generates a phase change; and

15 forming a second recording layer that generates a phase change;

wherein a sputtering target containing Ge, Te and Bi is used in both the first recording layer forming step and the second recording layer forming step.

20 42. The method for producing an information recording medium according to claim 41, wherein a sputtering target containing Bi at 0.5 atom % or more is used in the second recording layer forming step.

43. The method for producing an information recording medium according to claim 41, wherein the second recording layer that is formed by the sputtering target that is used in the second recording layer forming step is represented by a composition formula $Ge_aBi_bTe_{3+a}$, where $0 < a \leq 60$ and $1.5 \leq b \leq 7$.

30 44. The method for producing an information

recording medium according to claim 41, wherein the second recording layer that is formed by the sputtering target that is used in the second recording layer forming step is represented by a composition formula $(Ge-M2)_aBi_bTe_{3+a}$,

5 where M2 is at least one element selected from a group consisting of Sn and Pb, and $0 < a \leq 60$ and $1.5 \leq b \leq 7$.